



CALIFORNIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY
PUBLIC MEETING AND SPECIAL SESSION MEETING MINUTES
September 23, 2009
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

The public meeting and special session of the California High-Speed Rail Authority was called to order on September 23, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the Sacramento City Council Chambers in Sacramento, California.

Call to Order and Roll Call

Members Present: Curt Pringle, Chairman
Thomas Umberg, Vice-Chairman (remotely from Camp Eggers, Afghanistan)
Quentin Kopp
Fran Florez
Rod Diridon, Sr.
Lynn Schenk
Richard Katz
Russell Burns
David Crane

Chairman Pringle stated Vice-Chairman Umberg would be joining the meeting remotely from Camp Eggers, Afghanistan.

Pledge of Allegiance

Administered by Quentin Kopp

Executive Director's Report

Mehdi Morshed reported on the status of the AARA Application. He noted the High Speed Rail Authority did not have any projects eligible for the Track 1 application.

Tony Daniels presented a power point demonstration to the board for recommended projects to be included in the Authority's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Track 2 Grant Application.

Mr. Diridon asked legal if by listing these projects, knowing they are in the midst of a Project Level Environmental Review, and recognizing that NEFA says you can't prejudge the outcome of a Project Level Environmental Review; is the Board in any way prejudicing the objectivity of that Project Level Environmental Review.

Ms. Sproul, Attorney with the AG answered; "we don't see it as prejudicing the ultimate outcome of the project environmental process or continuing with that process."

Track 2 Projects were identified as four design corridors; San Francisco to San Jose, Merced to Fresno, Fresno to Bakersfield, Los Angeles to Anaheim. Mr. Daniels stated the project choices were made based on project completion dates in order to begin construction by September 30, 2012. And they are working closely with the FRA to determine the safety codes for high speed train sets in the state of California.

Concerns were voiced by Mr. Umberg and Mr. Kopp regarding what would happen if individual project stimulus money from the Track 2 grant were not used by the deadlines; where would it go. Mr. Diridon stated if a deadline is missed, the funds are returned to the FRA, who will in turn place the funds back into another bidding cycle for redistribution.

A list of the high priority grade separations was presented by Mr. Daniels and the major grade crossings were introduced; with three in San Bruno having environmental clearances.

Mr. Crane questioned the amount of support that would be received from local government in each of the sectors. Mr. Morshed indicated it was too early to determine exactly how much revenue would come in from each of the corridor areas.

Chairman Pringle called for public comment to begin and called on Assemblywoman Cathleen Galgiani. She congratulated the Authority on the excellent package submitted to apply for the federal stimulus funding. She stated the Central Valley in California is the only place where speeds of 220 mph could be reached with the high speed trains. Assemblywoman Galgiani added that California is the only state to gain public support by obtaining a bond measure to help build the High Speed Rail project. She mentioned she will be returning to Washington, D.C. to join the Labor Community to lobby for congressional support of the High Speed Rail package submitted to the Federal Railway Administration.

After public comment concluded, Mr. Diridon moved for the Board to accept the staff recommendation for projects to be included in the Authority's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Track 2 Grant Application. Ms. Florez seconded the motion and Chairman Pringle called for a roll call. The item was passed unanimously.

The Board adjourned for the closed session portion of the meeting.

The public meeting resumed with no reportable actions taken during closed session.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40p.m.